

**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting  
Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
February 22, 2021**

**Present:** Jacob Benda, Joyce Brown, Nils Halker, David Jenkins, Liisa Keranen, Jessica Park, Laura Potratz, Phillip Radtke, Lise Schmidt, John Varona

**Absent:** Dave Geslin, Kris Rizzotto, Joe Trucano

**Also present:** Chaplain John Setterlund

**Call to Order** by Dean David Jenkins at 6:30 PM, Virtual Meeting via the Zoom App hosted by St. Paul Seminary

The meeting began with a reflection by Chaplain John Setterlund on Psalm 8 speaking of struggles, courage, and faith. A prayer followed

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

Dean David Jenkins led a discussion with the board on our wellbeing at this time during the pandemic. We were reminded to care for ourselves and our friends during this time.

The November minutes were approved as corrected.

**Motion:** Lise Schmidt moved to accept the minutes.

**Second:** Phil Radtke

**Motion carried**

**Report:** Secretary's report given by Joyce Brown

The Nominating Committee is being led by Carolyn Diamond. The committee members are Laura Edman, Jeremy Haug, Lise Schmidt, and Robert Vickery. They have successfully asked five members to run in the election. The names and their brief biographies will be published in the April *Pipenotes* newsletter.

There was no treasurer's report this month.

**Report:** Program report given by Jacob Benda

-The Bach Bash for 2021 will feature videos of performers from March 14 to March 21. They are local performers. Thank you to Jacob Benda and the Program Committee for organizing this event. Thank you to Jeremy Haug for all the technical and video expertise.

-There will be a member's recital at the end of the year. The details are being arranged. There will be a focus on the social and outreach aspects of this event. It will be a zoom event.

-The opening event in September for our new year is scheduled for late September or early October. It will include the premier of the TCAGO Documentary Film. There will be a weekend event featuring a free master class and tours. This is in collaboration with Northrop and the University of Minnesota. We appreciate the good and solid relationship between the TCAGO and Dean Billmeyer, and the University.

**Report:** Professional concerns report given by Laura Potratz.

Laura shared her thoughts on the AGO National webinar "Know Your Value." Many points were raised including: fair compensation, what can and cannot go into work agreements, discrimination in church jobs and rights of church musicians. There are also legal concerns regarding the recordings that organists are asked to make for their job and ownership of those recordings.

-The publication "Employing Musicians in Religious Institutions" is now available and should be helpful for search committees and musicians. This is available through the National AGO website.

-There will be a Zoom meeting on March 8 on professional concerns led by David Jenkins and Carolyn Diamond.

**Report:** Board members shared their thoughts and ideas from the Leadership Conference 2021.

-This three-day conference was organized by National AGO and was in place of our January Board meeting.

-Everyone agreed that it was fun and interesting to meet board members from across the country and to hear their stories, successes, and challenges.

-Some ideas generated were:

-Programming should be high quality and diverse in age, race, gender, denominations and size of instruments. National has resources for planning available to us.

-Starting mentoring programs for officers

-Collaborating with other organizations, chapters, and schools on presenting programs, thereby increasing our audiences

-Complimentary first-year membership for new members

- Honoring our medical people with giving musical programs for them

The conference also shared tech ideas for our current times.

**Report:** David Jenkins gave the Dean's report.

-David Jenkins is researching and meeting with our tech people to explore the possibility of voting electronically. It may or may not happen this year.

-The results of the survey of chapter members were presented and discussed. Thank you to Carolyn Diamond who helped draft the survey and analyze the results, to Laura Edman, Nils Halker, Jennifer Anderson, and others who provided input on the questions. The results of the survey were published in the February *Pipenotes*.

-MPR thanks our chapter for our donation of \$6000 towards the *Pipedreams* radio show.

**Motion:** Phil Radtke moved to close the meeting.

**Second:** John Varona

**Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Joyce Brown, Secretary

Next Meeting April 26, 2021